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**DETROIT  
HISTORICAL  
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# *News Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**THE DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM'S GRAND RE-OPENING WEEKEND KICKS  
OFF WITH A GALA ON BELLE ISLE FRIDAY, MAY 17**

**DETROIT** — More than 300 people are expected to celebrate the Gala Grand Re-Opening of the **Dossin Great Lakes Museum** on Belle Isle with a fabulous evening of Great Lakes-inspired cocktails, cuisine and entertainment on Friday, May 17 from 6 – 11 p.m.

Benefactor level ticketholders arriving at 6 p.m. get the first chance to see the \$2 million of renovations at the Detroit Historical Society's Belle Isle jewel for \$600 per person. Benefactors will enjoy a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception in the newly coined **Polk Family Hall**, featuring the Gothic Room from the *City of Detroit III* – a Great Lakes cruise ship that was part of the D & C Line that operated from 1912 through the mid-1950s. An official ribbon cutting ceremony with **Detroit Mayor Dave Bing** and **Senator Carl Levin** is also scheduled for around 6:30.

Patron level tickets available for \$300 for arrival at 7:15 p.m. include passed hors d'oeuvres in the galleries prior to a seated dinner on Detroit's riverfront with our Benefactor guests.

Finally, our Friend level guests arriving at 9 p.m. enjoy desserts, a beer and bourbon bar and a speakeasy-themed afterglow party with music for dancing in **DeRoy Hall**.

Co-Chairs for the Dossin Great Lakes Museum Re-Opening Gala are **Maggie & Bob Allesee, Marlene & John Boll, Diane & Doug Dossin** and **Bobbi & Stephen Polk**.

Our **Diamond Sponsors** for the Gala are **Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dossin**.

**Platinum Sponsors** include **PVS Chemicals Inc.** and **Del and Dianne (Dossin) Ruth**.

**Gold Sponsors** include the following: **John A. & Marlene L. Boll Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Chope, DTE Energy, Henry Ford Health System, Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation, Jim and Ann Nicholson** and **St. John Providence Health System**.

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**Silver Sponsors** for the Gala include the following: **American House Senior Living Communities, L.S. Brinker Company, Tom and Lindsey Buhl, Scott and Jumana Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas P. Dossin, Greenstone’s Fine Jewelry, Mimi and Sandy McMillan, PricewaterhouseCoopers, R L Polk & Co., W.J. O’Neil and Wolverine Packing Co.**

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum, dedicated to the maritime history of southeastern Michigan, the Detroit River and the Great Lakes, has been closed to the public since December 2nd for a major renovation. The public hours for the public Grand Re-Opening weekend are the following:

- **Saturday, May 18 – Noon – 6 p.m.**
- **Sunday, May 19 – 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

A major highlight of the changes at the Dossin Museum is ***Built by the River in the John A. and Marlene L. Boll Foundation Gallery***, the Museum’s new permanent core exhibition, which chronicles Detroit’s growth and development into one of the nation’s leading metropolitan regions and the undeniable link to the river that shares its name. The exhibit highlights the ways in which Detroiters have long used the river and lakes around us to build industries, engage neighbors and pursue recreational passions.

*A River’s Roar* is a new temporary exhibit in the Museum’s Great Lakes Gallery that provides an exciting overview of the history of hydroplane racing in Detroit. For over 100 years, the Detroit River and Belle Isle have featured some of the finest racing in the country. The course has hosted the “superbowl” of power boat racing – the Gold Cup – more times than any other venue. The Gold Cup is the oldest trophy in motorsports. Visitors will see some of their favorite boats, and revisit the legendary days of Gar Wood, Guy Lombardo, Wild Bill Cantrell, Fred Alter, Bill Muncey and Chip Hanauer. Everyone can learn about these sleek and fun speed boats with names like “*Tempo*,” “*Skipalong*,” “*Such Crust*,” and “*Miss Vernors*.”

Also, the Museum’s other well-known attractions have been refreshed, including:

- The Gothic Room from the *City of Detroit III* in **Polk Family Hall**;
- The *Miss Pepsi* championship hydroplane, ensconced in its own pavilion;
- The **Oliver Dewey Marcks** Theater;
- The *William Clay Ford* Pilot House;

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- And an array of treasures outside the walls of the Museum that include the bow anchor from the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, two War of 1812-era cannons, a U.S. Coast Guard utility boat, and more.

The Past>Forward Campaign, launched in 2009, has raised more than 85 percent of its \$20.1 million goal and will conclude at the end of June, 2014.

In 1949, the Detroit Historical Commission opened the Maritime Museum of Detroit on Belle Isle. The last commercial sailing vessel on the Great Lakes, the wood schooner *J.T. Wing*, housed the museum for several years. When the old ship became too fragile for public visitation in 1956, the City of Detroit closed the museum and burned it to the ground. At that time, Walter, Roy, and Russell Dossin pledged part of their fortune -- earned as owners of the exclusive Pepsi-Cola bottling franchise in Michigan and northern Ohio -- and their fame -- as sponsors of several legendary hydroplane racing boats -- to build a new museum. On July 24, 1960, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum opened to the public on the same site where the *J.T. Wing* had been moored.

The Detroit Historical Society is a private, nonprofit organization located in Midtown, the heart of Detroit's cultural center. Founded in 1921, its mission is to educate and inspire our community and visitors by preserving and presenting our region's shared history through dynamic exhibits and experiences. Today, the Society operates the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. In addition, the Society is responsible for the conservation and preservation of more than 250,000 artifacts that represent three centuries of our region's rich history. Through its museum exhibits, school tour programs, community-based programs and history-themed outreach efforts, the Society serves more than 150,000 people annually. For more information on the Detroit Historical Society, visit [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org).

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